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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Soviet Military Activities in the Spreewald Area	DATE DISTR.	29 October 1953
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SOURCE:

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1. The Soviets are allegedly building a large number of casernes in the Spreewald area between Cottbus and Peitz. A new set of railroad tracks leads to the casernes, and power and sewage facilities have been installed. Continual arrivals of fresh Soviet troops have been reported. Some of the troops are currently staying in tents.
2. New-type firing exercises, presumably with artillery weapons, constitute a constant danger for villagers who work in the woods. In the latter part of August, two villagers were killed and about six were wounded by artillery or small-weapons fire. The injured bore severe black burns which do not heal, while the dead looked completely black. The Soviets refused to release the bodies to the next of kin for burial.
3. Large casernes are being constructed near Zossen. Highway 98, running from Berlin to Dresden, was closed to all civilian traffic in the vicinity of Zossen. It was necessary to take a detour via Sperenberg and Baruth.

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